

**CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A system for decoupling a capacitive path from an IO pad and a protected component, comprising:
  - a protected component;
  - an IO pad coupled to the protected component;
  - a source of current to the IO pad;
  - a first circuit directly connected to the IO pad and the protected component, ~~which ceases to conduct after being exposed to a current~~ wherein the first circuit comprises a fuse;
  - a second circuit able to cause the first circuit to cease conducting in response to variations in voltage or current, comprising:
    - a node coupled to the first circuit; and
    - first and second diodes coupled to the node; and
    - a capacitive path that is decoupled from the IO pad and protected component in response to the first circuit ceasing to conduct, and wherein the fuse is blown by a laser.
2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the protected component comprises a processor.
3. (Cancelled) The system of Claim 1, wherein the first circuit comprises a fuse.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the second circuit comprises a fuse blow pad that is coupled to the node.
- 5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the capacitive path comprises:  
the node coupled to the first circuit;  
the first diode, the anode of which is coupled to the node; and  
the second diode, the cathode of which is coupled to the node.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein a voltage coupled to the cathode of the first diode is a voltage other than a ground voltage.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein a voltage coupled to the anode of the second diode is a ground voltage.
10. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein:  
a first voltage is coupled to the IO pad;  
a second voltage is coupled to the second circuit; and  
the difference between the first voltage and the second voltage is less than the activation voltage of the first diode or the second diode.
11. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein:  
the second circuit has a control signal input;  
the second circuit shorts to ground upon receipt of a control signal;  
a voltage is coupled to the IO pad; and

the difference between the voltage coupled to the IO pad and the ground voltage is less than the activation voltage of the first diode or the second diode.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein a plurality of fuse blow control devices are connected to the same control signal input.

13-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled) The system of Claim 3, wherein the fuse is blown by a laser.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method for decoupling a capacitive path from an IO pad and a protected component, comprising:

generating by a current source a current to the IO pad;

directly connecting a first circuit to the IO pad and the protected component, wherein the first circuit comprises a fuse~~ceases to conduct in response to being exposed to a current~~;

coupling a node of a second circuit to the first circuit;

coupling first and second diodes of the second circuit to the node;

in response to variation in voltage or current, causing, by the second circuit, the first circuit to cease conducting; and

in response to the first circuit ceasing to conduct, decoupling a capacitive path from the IO pad and the protected component, and wherein the fuse is blown by a laser.

32. (Currently Amended) A system for decoupling a capacitive path from an IO pad and a protected component, comprising:

a protected component comprising a processor;

an IO pad coupled to the protected component;

a source of current to the IO pad;

a first circuit comprising a fuse directly connected to the IO pad and the protected component, wherein the fuse is blown by a laser ~~which ceases to conduct after being exposed to a current;~~

a second circuit able to cause the first circuit to cease conducting in response to variations in voltage or current, comprising:

a node coupled to the first circuit;

a fuse blow pad that is coupled to the node; and

a first diode, an anode coupled to the node and a cathode coupled to a reference voltage; and

a second diode, an anode coupled to ground and a cathode coupled to the node; and

a capacitive path that is decoupled from the IO pad and protected component in response to the first circuit ceasing to conduct, wherein:

a first voltage is coupled to the IO pad;

a second voltage is coupled to the second circuit; and

the difference between the first voltage and the second voltage is less than the activation voltage of the first diode or the second diode.